



# Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Vayeitzei

November 17, 2018 9 Kislev, 5779

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TORAH</b> <b>ARTSCROLL 144</b> <b>HERTZ 106</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HAFTORAH</b> <b>ARTSCROLL 1140</b> <b>HERTZ 118</b></p>	<h2>Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Vayeitzei</h2>																																																	
<p><b>Times</b></p>	<p>This week's parsha relates a powerful, primal vision of prayer: Jacob, alone and far from home, lies down for the night, with only stones for a pillow, and dreams of a ladder, with angels ascending and descending. This is the initial encounter with the "house of God" that would one day become the synagogue, the first dream of a "gate of heaven" that would allow access to a God that stands above, letting us know finally that "God is truly in this place." There is, though, one nuance in the text that is lost in translation, and it took the Hassidic masters to remind us of it. Hebrew verbs carry with them, in their declensions, an indication of their subject. Thus the word yadati means "I knew," and lo yadati, "I did not know." When Jacob wakes from his sleep, however, he says, "Surely the Lord is in this place ve'anokhi lo yadati." Anokhi means "I," which in this sentence is superfluous. To translate it literally we would have to say, "And I, I knew it not." Why the double "I"?</p>	<p>To this, Rabbi Pinchas Horowitz (Panim Yafot) gave a magnificent answer. How, he asks, do we come to know that "God is in this place"? "By ve'anokhi lo yadati – not knowing the I." We know God when we forget the self. We sense the "Thou" of the Divine Presence when we move beyond the "I" of egocentricity. Only when we stop thinking about ourselves do we become truly open to the world and the Creator. In this insight lies an answer to some of the great questions about prayer: What difference does it make? Does it really change God? Surely God does not change. Besides which, does not prayer contradict the most fundamental principle of faith, which is that we are called on to do God's will rather than ask God to do ours? What really happens when we pray?</p> <p>Prayer has two dimensions, one mysterious, the other not. There are simply too many cases of prayers being answered for us to deny that it makes a difference to our fate. It does. I once heard the following story. A man in a Nazi concentration camp lost the will to live – and in the death camps, if you lost the will to live, you died. That night he poured out his heart in prayer. The next morning, he was transferred to work in the camp kitchen. There he was able, when the guards were not looking, to steal some potato peelings. It was these peelings that kept him alive. I heard this story from his son.</p> <p>Perhaps each of us has some such story. In times of crisis we cry out from the depths of our soul, and something happens. Sometimes we only realize it later, looking back. Prayer makes a difference to the world – but how it does so is mysterious.</p> <p>There is, however, a second dimension which is non-mysterious. Less than prayer changes the world, it changes us. The Hebrew verb lehitpalel, meaning "to pray," is reflexive, implying an action done to one-self. Literally, it means "to judge oneself." It means, to escape from the prison of the self and see the world, including ourselves, from the outside. Prayer is where the relentless first person singular, the "I," falls silent for a moment and we become aware that we are not the centre of the universe. There is a reality outside. That is a moment of transformation.</p> <p>If we could only stop asking</p>																																																
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the question, "How does this affect me?" we would see that we are surrounded by miracles. There is the almost infinite complexity and beauty of the natural world. There is the divine word, our greatest legacy as Jews, the library of books we call the Bible. And there is the unparalleled drama, spreading over forty centuries, of the tragedies and triumphs that have befallen the Jewish people. Respectively, these represent the three dimensions of our knowledge of God: creation (God in nature), revelation (God in holy words) and redemption (God in history).

Sometimes it takes a great crisis to make us realize how self-centered we have been. The only question strong enough to endow existence with meaning is not, "What do I need from life?" but "What does life need from me?" That is the question we hear when we truly pray. More than an act of speaking, prayer is an act of listening – to what God wants from us, here, now. What we discover – if we are able to create that silence in the soul – is that we are not alone. We are here because someone, the One, wanted us to be, and He has set us a task only we can do. We emerge strengthened, transformed.

More than prayer changes God, it changes us. It lets us see, feel, know that "God is in this place." How do we reach that awareness? By moving beyond the first person singular, so that for a moment, like Jacob, we can say, "I know not the I." In the silence of the "I," we meet the "Thou" of God.

**Ten Paths to God – Unit 2, Prayer: Speaking to God**

Prayer is our intimate dialogue with Infinity, the profoundest expression of our faith that at the heart of reality is a Presence that cares, a God who listens, a creative Force that brought us into being in love. It is this belief more than any other that redeems life from solitude and fate from tragedy. The universe has a purpose. We have a purpose. However infinitesimal we are, however brief our stay on earth, we matter. The universe is more than particles of matter endlessly revolving in indifferent space. The human person is more than an accidental concatenation of genes blindly replicating themselves. Human life is more than 'A tale, told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.' (Macbeth 5.5.26–28). Prayer gives meaning to existence.

It is possible to believe otherwise. There can be a life without faith or prayer, just as there can be a life without love, or laughter, or happiness, or hope. But it is a diminished thing, lacking dimensions of depth and aspiration. Descartes said, 'I think, therefore I am.' Judaism says, 'I pray, therefore I am not alone.'

It takes courage to believe. Jews need no proof of the apparent injustice of events. It is written on the pages of our history. Jews had no power or earthly glory. For the better part of forty centuries our ancestors lived dispersed throughout the world, without a home, without rights, all too often experiencing persecution and pain. All they had was an invisible God and the line connecting us to Him: the Siddur, the words of prayer. All they had was faith. In Judaism, we do not analyze our faith, we pray it. We do not philosophize about truth, we sing it, we daven it. For Judaism, faith becomes real when it becomes prayer.

In prayer we speak to a presence vaster than the unfathomable universe yet closer to us than we are to ourselves: the God beyond who is also the Voice within. Though language must fail when we try to describe a Being beyond all parameters of speech, yet language is all we have, and it is enough. For God who made the world with creative words, and who revealed His will in holy words, listens to our prayerful words. Language is the bridge that joins us to Infinity.

In prayer God becomes not a theory but a Presence, not a fact but a mode of relationship. Prayer is where God meets us, in the human heart, in our offering of words, in our acknowledged vulnerability.



**Great Neck Yoetzet Halacha Lisa Septimus**  
Welcomes your questions about mikvah, observance of taharat mishpacha (halacha relating to married life) and women's health, as it connects to Jewish law. Reach out to her at:  
Phone: 516.415.1111  
Email: [greatneckyoetzet@gmail.com](mailto:greatneckyoetzet@gmail.com).  
All conversations and emails are kept confidential.



**Great Neck Synagogue**  
26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023  
516-487-6100

**Rabbi Dale Polakoff, Rabbi**  
**Rabbi Ian Lichter, Assistant Rabbi**  
**Dr. Ephraim Wolf, z"l, Rabbi Emeritus**  
**Yitzy Spinner, Cantor**  
**Eleazer Schulman, z"l, Cantor Emeritus**  
**Rabbi Sholom Jensen, Youth Director**  
**Zehava & Dr. Michael Atlas, Youth Directors**  
**Mark Twersky, Executive Director**  
**Dr. James Frisch, Assistant Director**  
**Erran Kagan, President**  
**Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board**  
**Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111**

# Challah Baking

BTH



Join the Great Neck Synagogue Sisterhood and  
make your own 5 lbs of homemade delicious challah.

**Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 6:30pm**

**Great Neck Synagogue Youth Center**

**26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck**

**\$20 per Person - Reservations required**

**Sponsorships Available:**

**Bronze—\$36, Silver—\$72, Gold—\$100**

**All ingredients included**

*Please click here for online registration or*

*Contact Marla Lemonik at 646-220-8105 or marlalemonik@gmail.com*

**GNS EVENTS THIS WEEKEND**

Great Neck Synagogue Shabbat Speakers Program



Shabbat  
November 17th, 2018

**YONAH JEREMY BOB**

Foreign Affairs Lecturer  
Intelligence, Terrorism & Legal Analyst  
The Jerusalem Post

Yonah Jeremy Bob lectures on foreign affairs and is the Jerusalem Post Intelligence, Terrorism and Legal Analyst. Speaking in the US, Canada, and Israel since 2000, he covers diplomacy, security, the Mossad, war crimes and BDS, cyber warfare and politics. He was an IDF lawyer and worked for multiple ministries. Yonah has provided analysis to CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera, the Washington Post and Sky News.

**Shabbat Drasha:**

**Spy Wars:**  
Revealing New Color  
to Mossad, CIA, Shin Bet  
and other Spy Agency Stories

**Seudah Shlishit:**

**Israel Update:**  
The Hottest & Latest

For dedications to our Speakers Program please contact the synagogue office at 516.487.6100 or mtwersky@gns.org  
Sponsorships Available at \$180; \$360; \$500; \$750




## NSHA COMMUNITY SHABBAT

**November 16-17**

**Current and Prospective Families and NSHA Friends**

**FRIDAY NIGHT  
ONEG  
NOVEMBER 16**

For current and prospective high school students (Grades 8-12) led by Rabbi Dr. Noam Weinberg together with our faculty and Great Neck community Rabbim. 8-8:45pm

 The home of Didi and Avram Hart  
32 Old Mill Road

**SHABBAT MORNING  
TEFILA  
NOVEMBER 17**

Tefila at Great Neck Synagogue led by Chazan Yitzy Spinner with participation by NSHA students.

Rabbi Dr. Noam Weinberg will speak at the Mashadi Jewish Center  
Taan Minyan

**SHABBAT KIDDUSH  
LUNCHEON  
NOVEMBER 17**

For NSHA current and prospective families, faculty, alumni, and friends. 12:45pm-3:30pm

Great Neck Synagogue  
26 Old Mill Road

Children ages 2+ join Rabbi Jenson, Dr. Mily and Moran Zahava for incredible youth programming

 Registration Required at [www.gns.org/shabbat](http://www.gns.org/shabbat)

For more information on these events contact Abigail Zauner Weiss at 516.487.8687 Ext. 167 or by email at [aweiss@nsha.org](mailto:aweiss@nsha.org)  
Shabbat hospitality available for students or families living outside of Great Neck

GNS New Members Committee  
PRESENTS



The GNS Annual  
**BOWLING**  
*Invitational*

**Saturday Night**

**November 17th  
7:30-10:00 pm**

**AMF Sheridan Lanes  
199 E. Jericho Turnpike Mineola, NY**

**Defend Your Crown  
or**

**Restore Your Reputation**

**\$35/person \$70/couple Dairy meal included  
RSVP at [mtwersky@gns.org](mailto:mtwersky@gns.org)**

**Great Neck Synagogue**

★★★★ Men's Club Presents ★★★★★

Sunday, November 18th, 2018 at 10:00 am



**DAVID MATLOW**  
ON  
**THEODOR HERZL**

David Matlow is the owner of the world's largest private collection of Herzl memorabilia, which he has exhibited in Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary and Edmonton. Together with Israeli film maker Eli Tal-El, he has produced a 52-minute documentary called My Herzl, which explores the continued relevance of the life and work of Theodor Herzl. My Herzl has been screened at film festivals and other venues around the world.

David is a corporate and securities law partner at Goodmans LLP in Toronto and Chairman of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto with CS600 million of assets and planned gifts. David is currently working on a photography book with highlights of his collection to be called Collecting the Dream which is targeted for publication in early 2019.

All Welcome - Complimentary Breakfast - 26 Old Mill Rd.

# GNS SATURDAY NIGHT SPORTS



6:00-8:00pm Boys & Girls Soccer Grades 1-5  
Soccer with Coach Chris (\*new for this season)  
Game room, movies, pizza & more  
Please drop off and pick up at the assigned time

8:15-10:30pm Middle & High School (after program)  
Basketball (open gym)  
Movies  
Big Games on TV  
Game Room  
Pizza

JOIN GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE AT THE KNICKS GAME!



# CHANUKAH AT THE GARDEN

## KNICKS vs. WASHINGTON WIZARDS



MON. DECEMBER 3RD GAME TIME 7:30 PM

### FAN EXPERIENCES INCLUDE:

\*New\* GNS will be lighting the Menora at the Garden

### Fan Tunnel

(minimum 2 tickets purchase required for 1 participant)

### TICKET OPTIONS:

More seats available at \$75 & \$135



Give Thanks by  
Thinking of Others!

GNS Youth  
Annual  
Loaves  
of Love

Challah Baking with Morah Zehava and  
professional "Challahs 'n More" baker!



When: Friday, November 23rd, 9:30-11:00  
Who: 1st -5th grade  
Where: Braun Youth Center  
RSVP: email zehavaatlas18@gmail.com  
by November 18

Every person will receive 2 challot:  
1 to take home and 1 to pass along to someone else



## GNS Women's Learning Series

Mrs. Toba Shifrin

Tuesday Evening November 27th  
8:00 pm

Generously Hosted by Sara Feldschreiber  
34 Gateway Drive Great Neck

**"The Menorah's Secret Gift:  
Cultivate an Attitude of Gratitude  
in 3 Daily Minutes"**

Mrs. Toba Shifrin is a veteran educator with over two decades of classroom experience. She travels extensively lecturing and teaching Torah to women of all ages. A Gallup Strengths Coach, she coaches families with teens in crisis, and is the Director of Camp Anna Heller for the last fifteen years. Mrs. Shifrin resides in Passaic, NJ with her husband Meyer and their seven children.

## [You Can Have Your Pie And Eat It Too!](#)

Written by Nechama Liss-Levinson

When sisters Adeena Sussman and Sharon Wieder faced the death of their mom from ovarian cancer, they wanted to develop a charitable memorial that expressed who she was in life. Since she had been a great cook and baker, and because Thanksgiving was one of her favorite holidays, Pies for Prevention was born.

Eight years ago, Adeena and Sharon began baking Thanksgiving pies, which they sold to friends and community residents. The pie sale proceeds went to the Stephanie Sussman and Ann Nadrich Memorial Fund at Sharsheret, in memory of their mother and grandmother. Sharsheret, which provides a lifeline of education and support for young Jewish women with breast cancer, was thereby able to develop educational materials and programming for Jewish women facing ovarian cancer and their families.

Each year the Pies for Prevention program has spread to new communities, from its beginning in Teaneck, to "franchises" in West Orange, Manhattan, Atlanta GA, Palo Alto CA, Sharon MA and the Five Towns. This is the fourth year that Great Neck will also have Pies for Prevention, with the co-sponsorship of Women's Tefila and Sisterhood of Great Neck Synagogue. The program is being co-chaired by Marla Lemonik and Nechama Liss-Levinson. Nechama's mother, Gertude Yagoda Liss died 30 years ago of ovarian cancer. The Pies for Prevention in Great Neck is to honor her memory and the memories of many other women we all loved who suffered from ovarian or breast cancer.

You can be part of the project by purchasing pies online at:

[www.sharsheret.org/pies-for-prevention/greatneck](http://www.sharsheret.org/pies-for-prevention/greatneck).

All pies are \$36 and must be ordered by Nov. 17th.

They are all homemade with Kosher ingredients (not under rabbinic supervision) and are pareve.

It's a great way to feel good by doing good.

**In honor of the commemoration of Veteran's Day,  
we'd like to recognize and thank all of our members who have served in the  
armed forces around the world.**

Dicker, Zach	US Army
Domnitch, Harold	US Air Force
Freeman, Israel	Israeli Army
Gilad, Yehoshua	Israeli Air Force
Katz, Henry	US Army
Mitzner, Milton	US Navy
Mizrahi, Yaacov	Israeli Army
Rabinowitz, Stephen	US Navy
Sachmechi, Isaac	Israeli Army
Seidman, Morris	US Army
Shaw, Fred	US Navy
Sokol, Martin	US Air Force
Stein, Charles	US Navy
Traub, Gerald	US Army
Weinberg, Paul	US Army
Zyskind, Vladimir	USSR Army

This year for Thanksgiving  
**You can really give thanks and be giving!**

Buy a Thanksgiving Dinner for a  
resident at Arrandale Senior Housing  
and make your parents proud of you.

\$18 can sponsor a dinner  
in honor of/in memory of your parents

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Meals purchased in memory/ in honor of:

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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**We are also looking for a limited number of volunteers (ALL AGES)  
to help serve the dinner, clean up, play music, sing & talk to the residents**

I would like to volunteer on Thursday, Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:30-2:00 pm

Food Server: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Talent: \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Names & Kids' Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Sponsored by: **GNS Hunger Initiative, Sisterhood & Women's Tefila**

For more info: email [lisslev@verizon.net](mailto:lisslev@verizon.net) or text 516-770-3572

Please return to: GNS 26 Old Mill Road Great Neck, NY 11023

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**RABBI POLAKOFF'S SHABBOS DRASHA THROUGH 5779 IS DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF DOVID BEN NISSAN v'LEAH FOR OTHER SUCH OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE CONTACT HOWARD WOLF 516-643-3344**

**IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS MOVING INTO THE GREAT NECK AREA PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW.**

### OFFICE HOURS FOR RABBI POLAKOFF

**Tuesdays 10:00-12:00; Thursdays 1:00-3:00.** He can always be reached on his cell 516.637.3674 or at [dpolakoff@qns.org](mailto:dpolakoff@qns.org).

### BIKUR CHOLIM AND SISTERHOOD JOIN TOGETHER FOR CHALLAH BAKE

Bikur Cholim and Sisterhood of GNS are working together for the upcoming Challah Bake on **Thurs. evening, Nov. 15th**. They expect 50 ladies to come together that night to recite the special prayer over the challah which is particularly powerful at that moment. If you would like the name of someone who is ill to be recited, please email their Hebrew name with their mother's Hebrew name to Diane Rein at [drein@verizon.net](mailto:drein@verizon.net). If you would like to sponsor this event in memory or in honor of someone, the cost is Bronze \$36, Silver \$72, Gold \$100.

### WOMEN'S TEFILA

Women's Tefila will meet **this Shabbat, Nov. 17th** at 3:45 pm.

### MEN'S CLUB EVENT

**Sun. Nov. 18th @10:00 am:** David Matlow on Theodore Hertzl. All welcome and complimentary breakfast will be served.

### BLOOD DRIVE THANK YOU

Thank you to all of the generous donors at last Sunday's Men's Club Blood Drive. Their selfless donation of 60 pints will help save the lives of people facing serious medical challenges. Special thanks to the enthusiastic volunteers: Shira Ebrahimi, Brianna Kohler, Brayden Kohler, Bryce Kohler, Ben Pagovich, Michael Pagovich, Sylvie Pagovich, Oliver Rein, Ella Shusterman and Zachary Stein.

### MEOROT COMMUNITY-WIDE CHANUKHA FUNDRAISER

Please join Meorot at North Shore Hebrew Academy as we embark on our first community-wide Chanukah Fundraiser and Awareness campaign. The theme of the campaign is "To Give the Gift of Jewish Education to the Children of Meorot." We are partnering with the PTAs of all the local Yeshivot and many of the local Shuls to sell boxes of candles in preparation for Chanukah. **Please visit: [www.meorotqn.org/donate](http://www.meorotqn.org/donate) to purchase your box or to gift a sponsorship.**

### UPDAT E ON KEILIM MIKVAH

This Tuesday, November 13th will be the last opportunity to claim any of the utensils from the Mikvah. We anticipate the mikvah reopening by Thanksgiving.

### MIAMI MARATHON—ANNA GLASMAN

Anna Glasman is hoping to raise \$5,000 for Chai Lifeline and has organized a team for the Miami Marathon in January in memory of her close friend Adeena Paknoush who passed away from cancer almost a year ago. The link to her personal page is: <https://www.teamlifeline.org/team-lifeline-miami/annasteam>

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

Nov. 15: Sisterhood Challah Bake  
 Nov. 17: Shabbat Guest Speaker: Yonah Jeremy Bob  
 Nov. 17: Bowling Invitational  
 Nov. 18: Men's Club Event: David Matlow  
 Nov. 23: Youth Program: Loaves of Love

## MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

**Mazal Tov to Lynn Steinberg** on the birth of a grandson born to her children **Sara & Lee Bienstock**.

**Mazal Tov to Lisa & Michael Aryeh** on the engagement of their son **Aaron** to **Suzie Eskenazi**, daughter of **Sim & Marc Eskenazi**. **Mazal Tov** as well to great-grandmother **Mahin Aryeh**.

**Mazal Tov to Debbie Wang** on the birth of a grandson, **Weston Davis Beegel** born to her children **Danitte & Justin Beegel**. **Mazal Tov** as well to great grandparents **Gloria & Leon Miller**.

### NSHA PTA ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

Come visit the NSHA PTA Annual Book Fair at 16 Cherry Lane on **Sun. Dec. 2nd from 11:00am-4:00pm** and **Mon. night Dec. 3rd 6:00-8:00pm**. Browse a selection of Judaic and secular books for toddler aged through adult.

### NORTH SHORE HEBREW ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

Join us for our Open House on Sunday December 9, 2018, from 10:00-1:00 to learn about our college preparatory General Studies courses and inspiring Judaic Studies curriculum including the only co-ed Beit Midrash program in New York. We look forward to welcoming you and your family to the NSHAHS experience.

### LONG ISLAND HEBREW ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE

Please join us at LIHA'S Open House, 122 Cutter Mill Rd. on **Thursday, Nov. 15th** for one of two sessions: 10:00-10:45 am or 1:15-2:00 pm. By appointment only, please call 516.466.3656.

# Y A H R Z E I T

### Saturday, 9 Kislev

Hava Freeman for Sara Dvora Bont  
 Jerrald Weinstein for Lillian Greenberg

### Sunday, 10 Kislev

Lloyd Bayme for Leib Bayme  
 Sam Toledano for Avraham ben Yosef  
 Sharon Goldwyn for Harry Gordon  
 Pearl Ginsberg for Yetta Helfman  
 Sharon Falkenstein for Yetta Helfman  
 Howard Lorber for Hannah Lorber  
 Ron Silverman for Gail Silverman  
 Jack Wachstock for David Wachstock

### Monday, 11 Kislev

Harriet Nathel for Gertrude Deutscher  
 Lisa Adler for Norma Gelfond  
 Joyce Swartz for Norma Gelfond  
 Ron Swartz for Norma Gelfond  
 Steven Swartz for Norma Gelfond  
 Judith Soleimani for Bela Hajdu  
 Trudy Jettelson for Sarah Levisch  
 Joseph Notovitz for Jack Notovitz  
 Ralene Adler for Rosalie Ripa

### Tuesday, 12 Kislev

Eliezer Noy for Mashala bat Soltana  
 Richard Lillien for Bette Lillien

### Wednesday, 13 Kislev

Steve Blummer for Naftali Mordechai ben Chaim  
 Robert Glaser for Jack Glaser  
 Nathaniel Weisel for Nathan Kaplan  
 Michael Weiss for Margaret Weiss  
 Alex Weiss for Margaret Weiss

### Friday, 15 Kislev

Barry Maher for Faizollah Maher-Afarin  
 Issac Sachmechi for Helen Sachmechhi  
 Lev Dynkin for Rabbi Aryeh Leib Shifman  
 Semyon Dynkin for Rabbi Aryeh Leib Shifman